Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 01152 091615Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
/022 W
----------100149Z 097571 /14
R 091550Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6408
COMMANDANT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1152

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AG, US

SUBJECT: NWC 11 VISITS ALGERIA

1. MAY 1-4 VISIT TO ALGERIA BY SEVEN-MAN DELEGATION COMPRISING NWC 11 WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EVENT. AFTER LONG PERIOD OF DELAY,

ALGERIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (MND) TOOK ENTIRE CHARGE OF VISIT, INCLUDING ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS AND TRIPS AND PICKING UP TAB FOR ALL EXPENSES DURING GROUP'S STAY. TWO ARMY OFFICERS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM WAS SECURITY SPECIALIST, WERE ASSIGNED TO DELEGATION DAY AND NIGHT, AND THREE MND CHAUFFERED CARS WERE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT VISIT.

2. IN SETTING UP PROGRAM FOR GROUP, MND SUCCEEDED IN MEETING ALMOST ALL REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS AND VISITS MADE IN OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON VISIT. PROGRAM MADE UP OF FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A. VISIT TO COMBINED ARMY MILITARY ACADEMY AT CHERCHELL: ACADEMY COMMANDANT AND COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBER COLONEL MOHAMED SALAH YAHAOUI AND HIS STAFF ACCORDED GROUP WARM, IF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ALGIER 01152 091615Z

NOT EFFUSIVE, RECEPTION, AND TOUR OF ACADEMY, WHICH HAD APPARENTLY BEEN CLEARED OF STUDENTS FOR OCCASION, WAS THOROUGH. YAHIAOUI PRESENTED DELEGATION WITH MILITARY ACADEMY PLAQUE INSCRIBED FOR VISIT, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL GIFTS OF MEDALS AND FOODSTUFFS, AND STRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THIS FIRST CONTACT WITH U.S. OFFICERS WAS "A BEGINNING AND NOT AN END." IN FACE OF INTERESTED QUESTIONING BY ONE MEMBER OF GROUP, YAHIAOUI ARRANGED TOUR OF RIFLE RANGE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

WHICH HAD CLEARLY NOT BEEN ON ORIGINAL PROGRAM. DETAILS ON ACAD-
EMY FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

B. VISIT TO ARZEW OIL AND GAS COMPLEX: TOUR OF ARZEW FACILITIES
CONDUCTED BY STATE PETROLEUM COMPANY SONATRACH UNDER WATCHFUL
EYE OF MERS EL-KEBIR NAVAL BASE COMMANDANT, MAJOR TUATI WHO
REPRESENTED SECOND MILITARY REGION COMMANDER. GROUP WAS
IMPRESSED BY LACK OF ANY APPARENT AIR DEFENSE STYSTEM AT
ARZEW.

C. CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTRY SECY GEN COLONEL ABDELHAMID
LATRECHE: LATRECHE WAS CORDIAL AND APPARENTLY INTERESTED IN
SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH GROUP. HE CAME TO MEETING ARMED WITH
FOURTEEN-QUESTION BRIEFING PAPER AND HIS CHIEF OF MILITARY
COOPERATION, AIR FORCE MAJOR HADFI, SAT IN. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION
OF DOD'S PPBS, ON WHICH LATRECHE REQUESTED MATERIAL FROM US,
MEETING CUT SHORT BY CALL FOR GROUP TO PAY CALL ON PRESIDENT.
LATRECHE GAVE EVERY APPEARANCE OF REGRET THAT DISCUSSION
COULD NOT CONTINUE LONGER AND, LIKE YAHIAOUI, EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT CONTACT WOULD CONTINUE. HE PRESENTED EACH MEMBER OF
DELEGATION WITH CUFF LINKS.

D. CALL ON PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE: (SEE ALGIERS 1127)

E. VISIT TO NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION: THIS EVENT,
ONLY ONE NOT REQUESTED BY EMBASSY, GAVE ALGERIANS CHANCE
TO PUT THIER SHOWCASE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ON DISPLAY.

F. CALL ON MOHAMED MESSAOUD KELLOU, CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ALGIER 01152 091615Z

RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY:KELLOU WAS
FRIENDLY BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT DEFENSE MATTERS WERE OUT OF
ASSEMBLY'S COMPETENCE AND SPENT MOST OF BRIEFING EXPLAINING
ASSEMBLY'S OPERATION.

3. IN SUM, CORDIAL RECEPTION ACCORDED GROUP PART OF ALGERIAN
REGIME'S CAUTIOUS EFFORT TO "NORMALIZE" ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH
U.S. MND APPEARED A BIT STUNNED TO BE RECEIVING "IMPERIALIST"
OFFICERS AND WE TOLD IT WAS HESITANT TO BEGIN PLANNING UNTIL
ORDERED TO GET CRACKING BY PRESIDENCY. ONCE IT STARTED IT DID
SUPERB PLANNING JOB, THOUGH KEEPING VISIT UNPUBLICIZED IN LOCAL
PRESS AND KEEPING CAREFUL TABS ON WHAT GOING ON. IN LATTER
CONNECTION, ESCORT OFFICER ASKED EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER FOR
RUNDOWN ON MEETING WITH KELLOU WHICH HAD BEEN CONDUCTED IN
ENGLISH. TO DATE, LOCAL MEDIA HAVE NOT MENTIONED VISIT, AND
EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED TO EMBARGO, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, INFORM-
ATION ON DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES FROM FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.
DESPITE NERVOUSNESS, HOWEVER, MND OFFICIALS WENT ALONG WITH
PROGRAM LIKE GOOD SOLDIERS, AND

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

SIX MILITARY OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED MY RECEPTION FOR GROUP,
APPEARED TO HAVE GOOD TIME. TURNOUT OF ALGERIAN OFFICERS AT
RECEPTION IS HIGHEST WE HAVE OBSERVED AT ANY SUCH GATHERING
DURING PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

4. MND'S TREATMENT OF DELEGATION HAS AROUSED ENVY AND SOME
RESENTMENT IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AS GROUP GOT ACCESS WHICH
HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY DENIED MILITARY ATTACHES AND DIPLOMATS.
LATRECHE AND YAHIAOUI ARE DISTANT FIGURES AND CHERCHELL INACES-
SIBLE FOR MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: A. AS EMBASSY PLANS TO ATTEMPT FOLLOW-UP
CONTACTS WITH MND OFFICIALS, REQUEST NEA/AFN OBTAIN FROM DOD
MATERIALS ON PPBS WHICH MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR USE BY ALGERIAN
ARMED FORCES. SUCH MATERIAL SHOULD BE IN FRENCH AND, IF
POSSIBLE, TAILORED FOR NEEDS OF 80,000-100,000-MAN ARMED FORCE
WHOSE STATE OF ORGANIZATION APPARENTLY LOW. COLONEL HOMER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ALGIER 01152 091615Z

MCKALIP OF NWC 11 WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH NEA/AFN ON
THIS MATTER FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

B. CONSISTENT THEME ON ALGERIAN SIDE THROUGHOUT VISIT WAS
DESIRE FOR FOLLOW-UP EXCHANGE. MILITARY OFFICERS ALLUDED TO IT AND
HEAD OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN
MINISTRY STATED EXPLICITLY AFTER VISIT THAT ALGERIANS HOPED
THIS VISIT REPRESENTED OPENING OF CONTACT BETWEEN ALGERIAN
AND U.S. MILITARY. I BELIEVE NEXT STEP IS FOR U.S. TO INVITE
ALGERIAN MILITARY DELEGATION. VISIT LESS
THAT NWC VISIT CONSTITUTED SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH IN OUR
RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA IN GENERAL AND ALGERIAN MILITARY IN
PARTICULAR. WE NEED TO TRY TO EXPLOIT IT IN LOW-KEY WEG,
AND I HOPE THAT SOME TYPE OF INVITATION TO ALGERIANS CAN BE
ARRANGED.LYNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALGIER01152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770163-0532
Format: TEL
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770580/aaaacriw.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7944698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2604575
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NWC 11 VISITS ALGERIA
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, US, AG, NWC
To: STATE NWC
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d7944698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009